

**Governor's P-20 Council  
Graduation Rate Project Committee Meeting  
Thursday, April 6, 2006  
2:00 p.m.  
Meeting Notes**

**Location:** 1700 W. Washington, Arizona Department of Commerce; 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room

**P-20 Members Present:** Dr. Sybil Francis, Chair, Dr. David Curd, Dr. Karen Butterfield for Tom Horne, Dr. Jim Zaharis

**Others:** Dan Anderson, Dr. Benah Parker, Brian Mathieson, Alphonse Damas,

**Staff:** Debra Raeder and Becky Hill

**1. Call to Order & Welcome**

Chair Dr. Sybil Francis called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m., welcomed everyone and invited those present to introduce themselves.

**2. Approval of Minutes – October 6, 2005**

There being no discussion on or corrections to the Committee minutes of January 26, 2006, Dr. David Curd moved approval of the minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Dr. Karen Butterfield and unanimously approved.

**3. Presentation & Discussion: By the Numbers: A National Education Data Summit**

Debra Raeder and Dan Anderson provided an update on the NGA Conference they attended in Florida designed to help states implement the goals of the Graduation Compact. They provided the Committee with information on the needs assessment that was conducted at the Conference, as well as the results of the assessment and the results of a 2005 NCEA Survey of State Data Collection Issues relating to the 10 elements of a longitudinal data system. Dan indicated that in Arizona there was no central data system, complications due to the fact that the community colleges did not have a state governing board; and that there was no cross talk between community colleges, the K-12 education system in general, or the universities. Other states are doing some impressive work in data warehousing from K-20 into the workforce. Committee discussed the importance of identifying what the questions are that need to be answered and then collecting data to answer these questions.

**4. Discussion – Action Plan - NGA Graduation Rate Compact**

**a. Implementing a four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate  
using a standard definition – Ltr to Supt. Horne**

The Committee had a brief discussion on Superintendent Horne's informal response to the letter from the Committee requesting an assessment of the state's current data definitions and formulas,

data collection and analysis, and data system capacity. Alphonse Damas from the Department of Education provided an update to the Committee and indicated that the Department did not currently count the summer following graduation in the definition for graduation rate. In the compact, NGA has confirmed that in fact states could count students who complete the requirement for graduation during the summer immediately following the year they should be graduating as graduates. This would have an impact on Arizona's graduation rate.

***b. Leading efforts to improve state data collection – Creating a Longitudinal Data System;***

It was the consensus of the Committee to pursue formal adoption of the 10 Essential Elements of a Longitudinal Data System by the P-20 Council.

**c. Implementing additional indicators that provide more information;**

No discussion by the committee.

**d. Annually reporting progress on the improvement of high school graduation, completion, and drop-out rate data**

No discussion by the committee.

**5. Next Steps**

Next steps for the Committee include a formal presentation from ADE on Superintendent Horne's response letter and a presentation from ADE and the GITA Educational Data Steering Committee on current data collection programs and projects. Present the 10 Essential Elements of a Longitudinal Data System to the P-20 Council for adoption. Solicit presentation from other states who have accomplished statewide data warehousing including Florida and Ohio. The Committee will then begin drafting a report to the P-20 Council addressing each of the 5 recommendations of the NGA Compact.

**4. Call to the Public**

There were no requests from the Public to address the Committee.

**5. Adjournment**

There being no further business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 3:10 p.m.